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DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA

Commission Meeting
Saturday, November 8, 2014
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2600 E Euclid
Des Moines, IA
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The DSCI Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Legg at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Theresa Legg, Robert Vizzini, Nathaniel Garrels, Tina Kastendieck, Jennifer Keaton and Martha Meyer

Members absent: Mark Hersch

Staff members present: Heidi Smith, Administrator, CAS Division, Jill Fulitano Avery, Executive Officer, Office of Deaf Services, and Linda Scott, Secretary, CAS Division

Staff member absent: San Wong, Director, IA Department of Human Rights, *Ex-Officio* and Stephanie Lyons, Disability Consultant, Office of Deaf Services

Interpreters: Peggy Chicoine, Susan Hardine, Jeff Reese and Jennifer Taylor

Guest Speaker: Rep. Kevin Koester, State Representative, Ankeny, IA; Mary Dwyer, Glenwood, IA

Commissioners, staff and interpreters were introduced, visitors recognized and ground rules for the meeting established.

Guest Speaker: Rep. Kevin Koester, Ankeny, IA, state representative in District 38, who represents Ankeny and a small portion of the Des Moines area. Rep. Koester provided commissioners and staff information on his background and how commissioners can, and should, contact their senators and representatives and even the Office of Deaf Services personnel when they have questions, problems or need help.

Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2014 Meeting:

Legg asked for changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from August 1, 2014 meeting.

Vizzini had a couple of revisions. He wanted it noted that at the time ground rules were presented, he objected to the rules as they stood and also, that where noted on page 2, Miller and Vizzini were delegates to the NAD meeting, not just attendees, where they discussed many NAD proposals.

MOTION #15-04: Motion to accept the minutes from August 1, 2014 with Vizzini's changes. **Kastendieck/Meyer** Motion carried, unanimous vote.

Commissioner/Committee Reports:

Culturally Affirmative Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Aftercare Services:

Keaton updated the commissioners on the five (5) regional schools for the deaf and blind with the first to be placed in Charles City fall 2015. There's a social worker who will be focusing on Children's Waiver Program under Medicaid and will be contacting people to focus on deaf and blind children, plus mental health issues, providing services to them. They will be trying to seek out other agencies to have the Children's Waiver Program.

This will happen at the same time the IEP team will decide where the kids will be going to school so they will be placed within their region. The contact is Lisa Ahovar and she will be the person who contacts the case managers and lead the initiative to apply services in each region and school where the student will be placed.

Vizzini questioned whether this service was for all deaf and hard of hearing children or only if parents request services under the Waiver? Keaton explained how the Waiver program works. As far as the IEP team goes, there are a lot of factors in making the decision on where a child is placed in a regional school. The team needs to have the parents or guardians there; the teachers who support or are planning to work with that child and they require the person who knows the curriculum or the person who is responsible for the curriculum of special education involved too. Kastendieck added that the school district representative must be present as well.

Accessible Legal Representation: No report.

Licensed Sign Language Interpreters Meeting Competency Standards:

Vizzini reported that community members are saying that they're trying to improve the interpreter access to qualified interpreters through IAD. IAD is trying to help start that initiative with ISRID, but it's been very difficult to contact the president. It's been a year-long battle, so he met with them about two (2) weeks ago with another meeting scheduled for next week. He will provide a more in-depth report at the next meeting of the commission.

There is interest in getting the law changed to get qualified interpreters in a hospital setting and work is being done on that, too. Keaton also added that the Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Translators are not taking action on complaints they've received. Something needs to be done.

BREAK

Public Comment:

Mark Valimont, audience participant, also reiterated the need to look into the Licensing Board as he's made a number of complaints and has never received a response.

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Old Business:

Staff Reports:

Smith –

- DHR will be holding a full day of activities on Thursday, February 26, 2015.
 - 7-9 a.m. will be a Meet and Greet with the Senators and Representatives. Staff and commissioners/board members will meet in the Rotunda, with each office having a table/booth to provide information on their office and division.
 - 9-Noon – Commission meetings will be held in the Lucas Building or on the complex.
 - Noon-1:00 p.m. – Lunch on your own
 - Noon-3 p.m. – DHR Board Meeting in the Lucas Building. Commissioners are welcome to attend.
 - 3-5 p.m. – DHR Open House, as in previous years where staff, commissioners and constituents can attend.
 - Commissioners may want to vote on change of meeting date under New Business.

It is not mandatory that DSCI hold their meeting on the 26th since you already have decided to hold your next meeting on the 13th of February, 2015, but if you are going to come in for the day of department activities, you may want to discuss and vote to make the change from the 13th to the 26th.

- The DHR Board has worked on their legislative priorities and this next session will be focusing on incarcerated, disproportionate minorities with the focus on African American, Latino and Native American people with mental health issues.
- Smith is still in the process of hiring a part-time disability consultant for the Office of Deaf Services. She had a very poor applicant pool with only five (5) people applying. If commissioners know of someone who might meet the qualifications, she asked them to that they send her their information and resume. There are still a couple of weeks to apply for this part-time, 20 hr. per week opening. Benefits are prorated but they will still have some benefits in the position. Smith will have Fulitano Avery forward the job description to each commissioner.

Fulitano-Avery –

- Will be out of the office for ear surgery the week of January 12, 2015 and hopes to be back on the 20th.

Contractual Interpreting Program Funds: Information through 10/31/14: Interpreting requests received and fulfilled through 10/31/14: 4 weddings and 3 funerals. Total expended for the period 7/1-10/31/14: \$2,400.00. Total remaining through 10/31/14: \$2,600.00.

Meyer asked if a hard of hearing family needed CART as their form of interpretation, would this fund cover that or is this specifically for ASL interpreting? Avery and Smith both agreed that this fund can be used for CART services.

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Strategic Planning:

MOTION #15-05: Motion to delay discussion on the commission's Strategic Planning process and to bring it up at the February 2015 meeting. **Kastendieck/Keaton** Motion carried, unanimous vote.

New Business:

Next Meeting of the Commission:

Legg: The next meeting scheduled for February 13, 2015 would be moved to February 26, 2015 if approved by vote.

MOTION: #15-06: Moved that the commission reschedule the February 2015 meeting from the 13th to the 26th in order to take advantage of the DHR activities scheduled for the entire day. **Keaton/Kastendieck** Yes votes from Legg, Kastendieck and Keaton; no votes from Vizzini and Garrels -3-2, motion carried.

Ground Rules:

Changing ground rules for upcoming commission meetings was discussed. Vizzini would like to see a couple of changes made and voted on.

MOTION #15-07: Motion to change the Ground Rules for upcoming commission meetings. Specifically #2 and 4 for the rules.

#2 says: "If you have any side comments or conversations to please leave the room" will remain with a bullet point 2A added as follows: **#2A** would be: Clarification and discussion related to translation is accepted during the regular commission meetings due to interpreters and interpretation. **Kastendieck/Vizzini**.

#4 – No use of cell phones, pagers or electronic devices during the meeting unless it relates to commission business. **Kastendieck/Garrels** Motion carried.

Announcements: None

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Theresa Legg, Chair

Linda Scott, Secretary